

Anti-Communist Council Prepares a Voting 'Index' on Congress

By WALLACE TURNER Special to The New York Times

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CULPEPER, Va., Aug. 10—

Here in the soft, lush Virginia countryside two hours by car southwest of the Pentagon, lights are burning late each night at the offices of the American Security Council.

The staff of the council, an organization intent on maintaining a strong military establishment and a vigorous opposition to Communism overseas, is busy computing a new kind of Congressional rating system—the "security voting index."

The index, to be mailed to subscribers next month for use in the fall's elections, will evaluate the record of each member of Congress on what the council considers the important national security questions of the day.

It will serve as a vehicle for attack on "doves" and for defense of "hawks," supporting those who voted for more military hardware and a hard line against Communism and opposing those who voted for military cutbacks and a more rapid withdrawal from Vietnam.

Fits No Stereotypes

The council is a powerful organization that fits none of the stereotypes of the anti-Communist groups that have thrived in the 25 years of the Cold War. Its aims are superficially like those of the John Birch Society, but it does not engage in radical attacks against public figures. Neither does it try to equate anti-Communism with godliness.

The important names on the council's letterheads are those of generals and admirals and businessmen. But the council is no front for the "military-industrial complex," for the businessmen include few who make guns or bombs or warships. Instead they sell mattresses, newspapers, television sets, razors and insurance.

In 15 years of activity the council has acquired sufficient influence for President Nixon to write it a thank you letter last year and for Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the Army Chief of Staff, to be willing to make speeches whenever it needs him. The men who run the council and its affiliates have about \$1-million a year to spend.

Now the council stands on the edge of major controversy as its voting index attacks the dedication to national security of some of the leading figures in the Congress.

Tens of thousands of letters have been mailed out to names on mailing lists purchased by the council. The letters ask for \$10 contributions to help pay the cost of rating Senators and Representatives. They promise to deliver the security voting index and say that it will be "very influential in the 1970 elections."

About 31,500 people have responded by sending in \$315,000.

The recipients are told that they are opinion leaders in their communities and are asked to indicate approval, disapproval or no opinion on 10 such statements as:

"The Safeguard Antiballistic Missile Defense System is necessary for the defense of the United States."

"Communists and other revolutionaries should be permitted to hold sensitive positions in defense facilities."

"The United States should extend diplomatic recognition to Red China."

National Results Due

The letter is robot-typed, personalized by a computer and signed by a facsimile machine. National results of the poll questions are promised about Sept. 20.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat reported a month ago that 631 persons had answered the council's poll questions when the paper printed them and that 85.1 per cent favored the ABM.

The council's fund solicitation letter also contained this paragraph:

"Many voters are not aware of how some Senators such as Kennedy, Gore, Muskie, Fulbright, Goodell, McGovern, Cranston and others have taken positions on national security matters which weaken America's defense against Communism. For example, they all oppose President Nixon on both missile defense and Vietnam."

(Early mailings carried Senator Ralph W. Yarborough's name, but when Texas Democrats voted him out in the primary, the name of Senator Alan Cranston of California was inserted in his place.)

"I didn't answer their questionnaire as my answers would probably put me in their file,"



The New York Times (by Wallace Turner)

In a Chicago loft building, William K. Lambie Jr., a former F.B.I. agent, presides over American Security Council's library and index of "revolutionary" organizations.

said one man in forwarding his letter to a columnist friend. "Who supports something like this—the military industrial complex?"

In fact, the council is business-oriented. It was formed in Chicago in 1955 by such companies as Marshall Field, Sears Roebuck, Stewart-Warner and Motorola.

Today it has 1,700 member companies, which pay dues based on their number of employees. The dues are deductible as a cost of doing business. The most recent audit shows \$259,772.89 was spent by the council in 1969.

The council operates a tax-paying subsidiary, the ASC Press, which distributes its newsletter and its three-minute, 15-second daily radio program, both called "Washington Report."

The council also has close ties with the tax-exempt Institute for American Strategy, which runs a private version of the "Freedom Academy" a school to teach anti-Communism and pro-Americanism. Conservatives have failed in efforts to get Congress to establish such an academy with Federal funds.

The council fought hard for passage of the AMB appropriation, and received a grateful letter from President Nixon. Its Washington Report newsletter prints assessments of internal security, and discussions of international affairs. Last December, the report printed a paper titled "A Way Out of Vietnam" by William Pawley, former Ambassador to Peru and Brazil.

"The operation is uncomplicated," Mr. Pawley wrote. "My suggestion is that each time 25,000 American troops are removed from Vietnam, 25,000 Chinese Nationalists take their places. Thus within 12 months, we could withdraw 250,000 Americans — almost half our contingent—gradually reducing our forces to a relatively few experts left behind to assist the newly arrived forces unfamiliar with the terrain and other local problems."

Headed by Ex-F.B.I. Agent

Mr. Pawley would put the Formosan Chinese troops into the demilitarized zone "where they could be quickly spread from the coast to the Laotian border."

John M. Fisher, the former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who is president (at \$27,500 a year) of the council, said that Mr. Pawley's proposal was not an official statement of the organization. It was circulated for its discussion value, he said.

The council's radio program, also called "Washington Report," is six years old. Dr. Walter Judd, a former Minnesota Representative, runs it.

At first, Dr. Judd was assisted by Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, but after Mr. Dodd was censured by the Senate, Representative Richard H. Ichord, Democrat of Missouri, succeeded him. Mr. Ichord is chairman of the House Internal Security Committee and ranks 10th among the Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee. The council has done studies for the House panel that found the United States lagging militarily.

as the Black Panthers or anti-war groups. Other programs deal with the American Security Council's views on current affairs.

The most recently available audit, for the year ended July 31, 1969, shows that the ASC Press spent \$494,447.24.

About two years ago, the council produced a version in comic book format of "Design for Survival," by Gen. Thomas S. Power, former commander of the Strategic Air Command. General Power was then an executive of Schick.

"I doubt that we will do that sort of thing again," said Mr. Fisher. The booklet was mailed to businessmen who had visited the general while he commanded the SAC.

Library in Chicago

Out in Chicago, in a loft building at 123 Wacker Drive, William K. Lambie Jr., another former F.B.I. agent, presides over the council's library and research center, described in a brochure accompanying the request for donations as "the largest private collection on revolutionary activities in America."

There are files of index cards keyed to publications that range from such periodicals as U.S. News & World Report or Pravda to bound volumes of Government reports and hearing records. On a shelf in Mr. Lambie's office are a set of hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee from 1938 through 1941, which the flyleaf says is the property of Senator Richard M. Nixon.

The council was incorporated as the Mid-American Research Library in 1955 and acquired the files of the late Harry Jung, who published an anti-Communist paper tinged with a bit of anti-Semitism.

Member firms of the council

may ask for research on individuals or organizations and are charged \$5 an hour for the time it takes to prepare the report, which consists of photocopies of the places that the person or group in question has been mentioned in documents in the council's files.

"I've never made up any lists and wouldn't know how," Mr. Lambie replied to the suggestion that the library files might be used to make blacklists for employer-members of the council.

The control group for the council is its executive committee, which is made up of representatives of the Senior Advisory Board who are named by the major concerns that founded the council.

They include such men as Kenneth M. Piper, vice president for human relations of Motorola, Inc.; Stephen Donchess of United States Steel; John Sevcik, president of the Burton-Dixie Corporation, and Russell White, coordinator of security for the General Electric Company.

These names appear rarely on council brochures. The most often published list is of the National Strategy Committee, whose membership varies from time to time but is always heavy with retired military officers, such as Gen. Mark W. Clark or Adm. Lewis S. Strauss.

Three newspaper publishers are on the current list—G. Duncan Bauman of The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Peter Bruce Clark of the Detroit News and William F. Knowland of The Oakland Tribune. Mr. Knowland, a fixture on the list since his days as Senate Republican leader, said he had authorized the use of his name but never went to meetings.

Mr. Bauman has been active and has helped form the Missouri Council on National

Security, the only state adjunct of the council. Mr. Fisher, the council president, said he had misgivings about state or local chapters because they might tend to take erratic actions to the detriment of the national group.

However, Mr. Fisher was present last week in St. Louis when General Westmoreland spoke to about 300 labor leaders and businessmen at a meeting in a carpenters union hall under sponsorship of the Missouri Council on National Security.

A carpenters union official gave General Westmoreland a construction worker's hard hat, which recently has come to symbolize support of the Vietnam war and a hard line against demonstrations.

The hat was described as "a symbol of the millions of red-blooded American men who have done so much to make our nation the greatest in the world."

General Westmoreland, slim and handsome in uniform, smiled tightly but did not put on the hard hat.

In recent years the council has been drawing closer to the Institute for American Strategy, of which Mr. Fisher is also president. The institute holds seminars for 30 to 50 people in a manor house on a 683-acre estate in the countryside near Boston, Va., a crossroads hamlet near here.

The institute also had its beginnings in Chicago. It grew out of the annual National Military, Industrial and Educational Conference held by the Chicago chapter of the Society for American Military Engineers. The annual meeting was thought by some not to provide enough opportunity to study Cold War strategy, so the institute was formed in 1958 and the Virginia property purchased in 1966.